

**CONFIDENTIAL.]**

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# REPORT

ON

# NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

## **FOR THE**

**Week ending the 23rd April 1904.**

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## ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th April contains a poem in which the Asiatic races are asked to open their eyes, remember their past glories, and join their hearts with the heart of Japan, so that if Japan wins, the victory may be considered as one in which they can all participate.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
April 20th, 1904.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

2. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 12th April speaks of the great prevalence of theft and dacoity within the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district. People are forsaking their hereditary crafts and taking to robbery. The writer knows that most of the inhabitants of a particular village are either thieves or dacoits. These *budmashes* live in villages near the Jamuna river, and the number of such gangs is gradually increasing in the part of the country to the east of the river. Villagers fear to breathe a word against them, for their lives and properties are at their mercy. It is believed that some men of power and position back these *budmashes*. Poverty also obliges many a bankrupt cultivator to have recourse to dacoity. The attention of the police authorities is drawn to the matter. Detective police officers should be employed to trace out the *budmashes*.

CHARU MIHIR,  
April 12th, 1904.

3. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th April has been informed by Babu Kali Prasanna Biswas, the Editor of the Oppressions committed by Varta, that at 8-30 P.M., on the 4th April last, a European soldier in Barrackpore. European soldier causelessly attacked him and beat him on the Grand Trunk Road, in Barrackpore, and that he had at last to save his life by running away. Such cases are almost of daily occurrence in Barrackpore. Since the murder of Dr. Sures Chandra Sarkar the local people live in constant fear of European soldiers. The European soldier is all in all in India, and not even the Viceroy can go against him with impunity. Arrangements should be made for providing with lights and guards such places in Barrackpore as are infested with European soldiers.

SANJIVANI.  
April 14th, 1904.

4. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 15th April says that some time ago Babu Chaitanya Krishna Mandal, a mukhtear of Tangail in the Mymensingh district, was arrested and kept in confinement for some hours by Khedharam Sing, havildar, and two constables, on a false charge of intoxication. The falseness of the charge was proved in Court. The mukhtear then instituted a case against the police for having brought a false charge against him. The police managed to have the case transferred to the Court of Mr. J. N. Ray, the Assistant Magistrate of Mymensingh. Here the havildar made an apology and had the case compromised. But it is a wonder how Mr. Ray could accept the compromise. The authorities are requested to inquire into the case and do the needful.

RANGPUR  
VARTAVAH.  
April 15th, 1904.

5. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th April says that there has been a recrudescence of oppression by cooly recruiters in the Bankura district. The number of cooly depôts has increased. The son of a late Magistrate of Bankura is doing the business of supplying coolies in that town. He is a European and lives in the European quarter of the town on friendly and familiar terms with its influential residents. People, therefore, despair of being delivered from his oppressions. Besides this, the opening of a railway line to Bankura has made the work of "free recruitment" of labour very easy.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
April 16th, 1904.

## (b)—Working of the Courts.

6. The *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 7th April speaks of the imperative necessity of creating a permanent Subordinate Judgeship at Noakhali. There has been a block in the business of the local Civil Court in spite of the appointment of a temporary Subordinate Judge for six months, whose term of office will expire on the 22nd instant.

SUHRID.  
April 7th 1904.

Wanted a permanent Subordinate Judge at Noakhali.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
April 10th, 1904.

7. A pleader of the Dacca Judge's Court, writing in the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 10th April, says:—

The Subdivisional Officer and the Munsif of Manikganj and the students of the local school.

The students of the entrance school at Manickganj in the Dacca district have long been using a field alongside the local *khal* as their football ground. At some distance from this ground is situate the house occupied by one of the local Munsifs, Babu Sidheshwar Chakravarti, who has planted cabbages and onions on a portion of his house compound. Fearing lest stray balls from the play-ground should injure the plants, he sent word to the boys through his peon, asking them not to play on that ground any more. But when he found that the boys were not at all disposed to obey him, he brought the matter to the notice of the local Subdivisional Officer, who also happened to be the Secretary of the school, with the result that the latter ordered the boys to play on some other ground. For some time the boys went without a play-ground, but afterwards they commenced playing in a very small field adjoining the local Telegraph office. Being obliged to abandon this ground on account of its being used for cultivation, they returned to their old play-ground. The Munsif Babu was very much displeased at this, and on the boys refusing to give up the ground, brought the matter again to the notice of the Deputy Magistrate and Secretary of the school. On the 12th March last, the Deputy Magistrate issued the following injunction:—

"Last evening I found that a friction was about to take place between some boys of the local entrance school and some other persons on the one side and some Civil Court peons and others on the other, leading to a breach of the public peace, as the first party was playing football on the ground in front of the house of Babu Sidheshwar Chakravarti, second Munsif, in spite of our forbidding the boys to do so, and as it appears to me that a breach of the peace may take place if the boys or any other persons will come again to play on the ground, it is ordered that one injunction be issued at once under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, forbidding the playing of football or any other game on the ground within the limits marked by the posting of bamboos in front of the said house."

"A copy of the injunction should be published by beat of drum and another copy posted to the place."

"Let a copy of the proceeding be sent to the police for information and taking steps to prevent a breach of the peace, if necessary."

A similar injunction was issued against the public. The boys petitioned against the injunction, but the Deputy Magistrate rejected the petition and passed the following order:—

"After hearing the petitioners' mukhtear and going through their petition of objection, I see no reason to cancel the injunction under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, which was made absolute *ex parte* under clause (2). It is quite unnecessary to examine any of the witnesses named in the list, as it is an admitted fact that the boys of the local entrance school used to play football on the land, which is the ground in front of the house of Babu Sidheshwar Chakravarti, Munsif."

He further remarked that it was a "wholly harmless order." But is it really harmless to deprive students of their exercise-ground? There were Munsifs and Subdivisional Officers at Manikganj before Sidheshwar Babu and Mr. Jatindra Mohan Singha, but no one had ever objected to the boys playing on the ground in question. But for the fact that the Munsif Babu and the Subdivisional Officer are acting in concert in regard to this matter, it would not be necessary to refer to it at all.

DACCA PRAKASH.

8. The same paper publishes a contradiction in regard to the above case, written by a correspondent named Brajendra Krishna Sur, who says that it is the local students

who are responsible for the friction which has taken place between them and the authorities at Manikganj. These refractory boys showed a most unbecoming disregard of the request made by the Munsif Babu that they should see that stray balls did not find their way into his garden. Many students even took a pleasure in wilfully throwing balls into it.

RANGPUR  
VARTAVAKA,  
April 15th, 1904.

9. The *Rangpur Vartavaka* [Rangpur] of the 15th April says that Babu Bipin Bihari Banerji, a Deputy Magistrate of Rangpur, has a very bad temper and is unable to

view cases with that calmness and impartiality which should characterise every judicial officer. Case No. 4 of 1904 is cited as an example of the manner in which he abuses accused persons. When hearing this case he called the accused such names as "liar," "damned liar," "ungentlemanly,"

etc., even before the cross-examination of the witnesses for the prosecution had ended. This led the accused person to apply to the District Magistrate for a transfer of the case from Bipin Babu's file.

10. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 16th April quotes a long article from the paper *Santi* of Madaripur, which complains of the unjust suspension of a peon, named Durga Mohan Das, of the Madaripur Munsif's Court,

Complaints against the Madaripur Munsif in the Faridpur district.

because the peon refused to do private work in the house of the sarishtadar, Kali Prasanna Babu, and of the practice of punishing peons on various false pretexts. Pay for an absentee peon is drawn in his name and the full pay of the permanent incumbent is given to the acting man. Government boats are falsely entered as sent to mafassal while the boats' crews are employed in the nazir's house or in the house of the peon, Rajmohan Das. In 1903, the miscellaneous suit No. 95 was instituted against the nazir, and though the suit was proved against him, the result of it has not yet become known to the public.

The article also complains of the haughty temper of Babu Bejoy Kesar Mitra, the third Munsif of Madaripur, and of his high-handed and arbitrary doings on the Bench.

(c)—*Jails.*

11. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th April suggests that such prisoners in the Indian jails as are potters, blacksmiths, carpenters, etc., by caste should be taught the art of manufacturing and repairing agricultural implements, oil machines, steam engines, etc., under mechanical engineers in Government service. The money which will be needed to carry out this proposal will be nothing in comparison with the good which will be done by it to the country.

(d)—*Education.*

12. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 13th April has the following :—

The appointment of Mr. Pedler as Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University.

The distinguished Mr. Pedler has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University.

A very excellent arrangement this, no doubt! As the Senate and the Syndicate must henceforth be regarded as Government offices, it is all the same to us whether Mr. Pedler or any other official member of the Viceroy's Council is made the Vice-Chancellor of the University.

13. The same paper has the following :—

The Hon'ble Mr. Morison's advice. During the debate on the Universities Bill Mr. Morison, the Principal of the Aligarh College, observed that if zamindars instead of wasting money on garden parties and other amusements for the gratification of Magistrates, Commissioners and other high officials, spent it for the education of their countrymen, then the Indian colleges and Universities would not be in want of funds for securing improvements. This remark, though perfectly true, is one which could only have been made by Mr. Morison, for he is a European. He does not know perhaps that if the Rajas and zamindars had been independent they would never have wasted their money in that manner. If they should follow Mr. Morison's advice and stop the sort of expenditure to which he takes exception they would then find it difficult to live in this country. Most of them would be reported against as rebels. If the Indians had the slightest control over their money, the statue of Lord Ripon would certainly have been erected long ago, and it would not have been very easy to raise funds for a statue of Lord Lansdowne, who had excited the disgust of the whole country. In a country where the biggest zamindars fall into trouble if they are slow to show respect even to the menials of District Magistrates, Divisional Commissioners, as also of District Police Superintendents, who can say that terrible consequences would not follow if the wholesome advice of Mr. Morison were acted upon?

14. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th April says that every Indian Mr. Tata's research scheme. has been mortified by Lord Curzon's rejection of Mr. Tata's research scheme. It was only the other

NAVAYUG,  
April 16th, 1904.

SANJIVANI,  
April 14th, 1904.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
April 13th, 1904.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

SANJIVANI,  
April 14th, 1904.

day that His Excellency took the Indians to task for not having a liberal public spirit. Why has he then refused Mr. Tata's offer of 32 lakhs? Has he been actuated in this act by the same motive of depriving Indians of high education that actuated him in passing the Universities Act?

BASUMATI.  
April 16th, 1904.

15. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 16th April is glad that the Hon'ble Dr. Asutosh Mukerji asked a question in the Bengal Primary and Middle Vernacular Legislative Council regarding the delay in the publication of the list of text-books for the Primary and Middle Vernacular examinations. The Hon'ble Mr. Earle promised that the list would in future be published in the first week of August. It would be more convenient if the list were published in June, for then the authors, whose books are selected as text-books, would have sufficient time to improve the printing of their books. As the text-books selected by the Text-Book Committee in July will have no chance of being included in the list to be published in August, this list might, with advantage to all parties concerned, be published in June. The Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, will, it is to be hoped, take the matter into his consideration.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

JASOAR,  
April 6th, 1904.

Cholera in some villages in the Jessore district.

Dr. Asutosh Mukerji asked a question in the Bengal Primary and Middle Vernacular Legislative Council regarding the delay in the publication of the list of text-books for the Primary and Middle Vernacular examinations. The Hon'ble Mr. Earle promised that the list would in future be published in the first week of August. It would be more convenient if the list were published in June, for then the authors, whose books are selected as text-books, would have sufficient time to improve the printing of their books. As the text-books selected by the Text-Book Committee in July will have no chance of being included in the list to be published in August, this list might, with advantage to all parties concerned, be published in June. The Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, will, it is to be hoped, take the matter into his consideration.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.  
April 12th, 1904.

The condition of mafassal hospitals in the Burdwan district.

17. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 12th April is extremely sorry that Government, while making large grants in the budget for the Kurseong Hospital, the Presidency General Hospital, and quarters for European nurses, has made no provision for hospitals in the mafassal. There are some hospitals in the interior of the Burdwan district. The villagers paid the money for the construction of these hospital buildings and they have been also paying the salaries of the medical officers, while the District Board, owing to the small funds at its disposal, supplies only such medicines as it can afford, and not the most important medicines. The result is that, in the matter of medicines, the patients are not properly served.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

18. The same paper writes that the Calcutta city improvement scheme, which is likely to involve an expenditure of 5 to 7 crores of rupees, owes its origin to the belief entertained by Government that when

the scheme is carried out the health of the town will improve and plague and other maladies will disappear. But all the sanitary measures hitherto undertaken by the authorities have utterly failed to do any good. The Bombay plague has so far defied all attempts to mitigate it. History shows that in ancient times many opulent towns were ruined by the ravages of plague. Gaur, the old capital of Bengal, is an example. Far from succeeding in their attempts to discover any remedy for the Indian plague, the greatest medical men of modern times have completely failed even to ascertain its cause. The solution of the problem seems to be beyond the power of man. Who knows that Calcutta will reap any the least benefit from the proposed improvements? It seems therefore unwise to add to the burden of the overtaxed people for the sake of a scheme, the success of which is at best problematical.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
April 15th, 1904.

Bad conservancy in the northern quarter of Calcutta.

19. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th April speaks in strong terms of disapprobation of the negligence and indifference which is being shown by the municipal servants in Calcutta in the matter of conservancy in the plague-infected northern quarter of the town. They know that so long as they take proper care of the European quarter, they can neglect the conservancy of the native quarter with impunity. The truth of this remark can be verified by the municipal authorities by a personal inspection of the interior of Kolutola, Jorabagan, and certain other localities, which have been turned into so many hells by the accumulation of refuse, dead rats, etc., in streets and

lanes. The old Municipality was much better in this respect. A correspondent complains of the extremely filthy condition of Sovaram Basak's 1st Lane in Ward No. 8. There is a receptacle for refuse in front of house No. 52-1 in this lane, which is not regularly cleared.

20. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 12th April writes:—

Water-scarcity in the mufassal. In the next year's budget no provision has been made against scarcity of water. Although some members of the Legislative Council raised the question, yet nothing was done, except that Government proposed to pay one-third of the total cost, provided the District Boards and the zamindars undertook to raise the remaining two-thirds equally between themselves. But have the District Boards ever had any surplus after paying all their necessary expenses that they can be expected to meet the abovenamed expenditure? Government has stopped the grant of Rs. 5,00,000 to District Boards which it has paid for some years past. Are District Boards then to make loans for this purpose? Is Government still ignorant of the real condition of zamindars and talukdars? Most of them are in a deplorable condition, and far from being able to lay by any money, they are compelled to make loans. Government ought certainly to have considered all these matters.

But while Government has stopped the grant of Rs. 5,00,000 to District Boards, it has made a grant of Rs. 5,07,000 for very different purposes this year, viz., Rs. 50,000 for the Kurseong Hospital, Rs. 15,000 for the Young Women's Christian Association building, Rs. 10,000 for the Kindergarten Free School Department in Calcutta, Rs. 40,000 for the Kurseong Orphanage, Rs. 1,50,000 for the quarters of the nurses of the Medical College, and Rs. 2,42,000 for the Presidency General Hospital. What can be a greater regret than that the Government bestows no thought on the sufferings of the people caused by scarcity of drinking-water? There has been enough agitation about the question of the prevention of water-scarcity. Government well knows that this agitation was not a got-up one, and the coffers of Government are full. How it is then that the wants of the people are not relieved? If the rulers had felt concerned at the distress of the people, those wants would have been surely removed.

Neither the District Boards nor the zamindars can possibly remove the water-scarcity in Bengal. The people are so poor that they find it difficult to barely maintain themselves. How can they help themselves in this difficulty? There are numerous old tanks in the villages of Bengal. These were excavated in the time of the Muhammadan rulers to help agriculture and to supply water for drinking purposes. The reason why people do not now excavate new tanks or re-excavate the old ones, is that they are too poor to undertake such works. The fact is that the people have no money, and it is strange that Government, well aware of this state of things, asks them to help themselves in this matter.

The rulers are bound to save the lives of the people when there is a famine; the same obligation lies upon them to make arrangements for the supply of drinking-water. Malaria, cholera and other deadly maladies are caused solely by want of good drinking-water. All the village tanks dry up in March and April, and to what a pitiable condition are the villagers then reduced! Those who are accustomed to drink pipe-water, and can command ice and other cooling drinks in Calcutta and other towns, can have no idea of the dreadful sufferings of the mufassal people for want of drinking-water. Can those people who live comfortably on the heights of Simla and Darjeeling during the terrible summer heat have any knowledge of the sufferings caused by intense thirst? If they had the slightest notion of what happens, then some steps would certainly have been taken to provide the thirsty with drinking-water. Government has shown a large surplus in the budget, but still does nothing in this matter. This is deeply to be regretted.

21. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the Water-scarcity in villages. 13th April writes that in the Budget meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council the Hon'ble Mr. Shirres said that if District Boards and the villagers undertook to pay between them two-thirds of the expenses necessary for the excavation of wells and tanks, Government would pay the remaining one-third. But the proceeds of the

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
April 12th, 1904.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA  
April 13th, 1904.

road-cess which have been appropriated by Government ought to be devoted to supply the wants of the poor people by whom the money was paid. Is it fair on the part of Government to spend lakhs for electric fans and other luxuries in hospitals for Europeans, while suffering the people to die for want of drinking-water?

BANKURA DARPAH,  
April 16th, 1904.

22. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th April says that severe scarcity of water prevails in the Bankura district. Water-scarcity in the mafassal. All the old tanks have dried up. In the budget various grants have been made for purposes which are more or less luxuries as compared with water-supply. Those who are accustomed to dwell in palaces are unable to conceive of the depth of the misery of poor villagers suffering from water-scarcity. Want of good drinking-water generates all sorts of epidemics in the country. So long as Government will not be liberal in the matter of water-supply, no real good will be done to the people. It is therefore to be regretted that all agitations in this matter have hitherto been futile.

BANGAVASI.  
April 16th, 1904.

23. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th April has the following :—  
Water-scarcity in Bengal. Whatever else you may or may not do for us, O King, give us water to allay our intense thirst.

"Give us water" is the heart-rending outcry of millions of people. Water is almost nowhere to be found in the country. Almost all the natural and artificial reservoirs have dried up. Scarcity of water has brought cultivation to a standstill and parched our throats. If you want to deprive us of education, do so; make us *nirava* (impoverished) or *nirastra* (disarmed) just as you like; but never make us *nirambu* (waterless), for we cannot live without water. Our wealthy men can do very little for us, because some of them have not the power to do much, some have not the inclination to do anything, and some have already done what they could afford to do. There was a time when to excavate tanks and sink wells was regarded as a pious act; but times are now changed.

Of all the questions that were discussed in the Budget meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council, the question of water-scarcity raised by the Hon'ble Tarini Prasad attracted our attention. Malaria, which is doing such havoc in our country, can never be successfully combated without satisfactory arrangements for the supply of pure water. The reply given by His Honour to the appeal made by the Hon'ble Member does not hold out much hope. The District Boards have no funds for the supply of water. The zamindars either cannot or will not do anything in this direction. Are the people then to die for want of water? The conditions on which Government proposes to pay a part of the expenses necessary for the supply of water will make it impossible for the people to avail themselves of Government aid. Who knows what the consequences will be?

DACCA PRAKASH,  
April 10th, 1904.

24. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 10th April learns from its own correspondents that two cases of plague, evidently imported from Calcutta, have occurred in the Dacca district, one in the Bhogodia village near Vikrampore and the other in Dacca town. The authorities should do their best to prevent further import of such cases into the district.

RANGALAY,  
April, 7th, 1904.

25. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 17th April speaks in high terms of the services which are being rendered by Mr. Agasti in Bhagalpur, Mr. Oldham in Monghyr, and Mr. Cumming in Patna in connection with plague work in those towns. Great praise is also due to Babu Upendra Nath Bagchi, the Chairman of the Bhagalpur Municipality, for the indefatigable labour with which he is trying to suppress the epidemic in Bhagalpur. Government should reward these officials and bestow honours on Upendra Babu.

MURSHIDABAD,  
HITAISHI,  
April 13th, 1904.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.  
26. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 13th April has the following :—

A notice issued by the Collector of Murshidabad in regard to a cher land.

The notice dated the 6th April last, issued by the Collector of Murshidabad, in discreditable English and in unintelligible, despicable Bengali,

intimating that he had taken possession, under section 3 of Act IV (B.C.) of 1868, of the *chur* land in the Bhagirathi, has come upon the public as an unwelcome surprise. How was it that the Sub-Deputy Magistrate took possession of the land by beat of drum at 7-30 P.M. when it was night? Was it on the principle that "might is right"? The opposite party in this case are the Sen Babus, of Berhampur, who are also the opposite party in another case between themselves and the Government, which is now before the High Court on appeal. The land in dispute in the latter case is of the same class as that in the former. It would therefore have been advisable to have waited till the appeal was disposed of. The officer who could act thus illegally cannot but be regarded as unfit for the responsible post of a District Collector. We hope Government will take due notice of this matter.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

27. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 14th April makes the following suggestions to the Assam-Bengal Railway autho-

Suggestions for the removal of inconveniences on the Assam-Bengal Railway.  
rities which, if they are acted upon, will increase the income of the Railway Company and at the same time remove the inconveniences of passengers.

They are as follow:—(1) Improvement of intermediate class carriages and the issue of return tickets. (2) Construction of a station platform and a waiting-room at Sitakund. (3) Waiting-room and hostels for Hindus and Muhammadans at Luxam. (4) An increase in the number of through carriages from Chittagong to Chandpur and from Comilla to Chandpur. It is to be regretted that the railway authorities did not allow a Hindu to open a hostel at Luxam, but they allowed a Bombay Muhammadan to open there two hostels, one for Hindus and the other for Muhammadans. The Noakhali passengers have to wait for six hours at Luxam. This inconvenience should be removed. Passengers to Sitakund, which is a sacred place of the Hindus, should be allowed concession tickets like week-end return tickets. If the foregoing matters are attended to, the Railway Company will secure a large income.

28. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th April publishes the following railway complaints:—

Railway complaints.

(1) Babu Vishnu Pada Khan, writing from Bagbazar, Calcutta, says that on the 7th April last, two respectable passengers found the booking-office closed at the Makardaha station on the Jagadballavpur Branch of the Howrah-Amra Light Railway. The 1-15 o'clock train had just then steamed into the station. The correspondent requested the guard of the train to take the men in on his own responsibility, but to no effect.

(2) Babu Dwijendra Nath Ghosal, Asansol, says that on the 31st March last, he bought at the Asansol station on the East Indian Railway a six days' return ticket (No. 4913) for Howrah. The last train by which the correspondent was entitled to return from Howrah on the strength of the ticket was the Bombay mail of the 5th April last. But having missed this train he returned to Asansol at 1-13 P.M. by No. 1 up Punjab mail. The ticket-collector of Asansol realised from him the whole fare from Howrah to Asansol and fine, although he ought not to have realised more than the fare for the distance which was actually travelled by the correspondent after midnight. The railway authorities have been petitioned in the matter.

29. A correspondent of the *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 16th April complains that no bench has been placed on the up platform

A railway complaint:  
of the Raniganj railway station on the East Indian Railway for the use of respectable inter-class passengers. Again, the gate between the down platform and the rest-house for third- and inter-class passengers often remains closed at times when it should remain open.

30. Some merchants of Calcutta, says the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 16th April, have petitioned the Viceroy against the

A memorial to the Viceroy.

manner in which the railway employés despatch such goods as are booked "at owner's risk." It is said that Mr. Robertson, the Special Railway Commissioner, has reported against the system of booking goods at owner's risk, as such a system does not prevail on the railways in Europe. It is to be hoped that the Viceroy will favourably consider the petition of the Calcutta merchants.

JYOTI,  
April 14th, 1904.

HITAVADI,  
April 15th, 1904

RATNAKAR,  
April 16th, 1904.

BHARAT MITRA,  
April 16th, 1904.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
April 17th, 1904.

31. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th April writes that two *khalasis*, while working on the Katuria railway bridge near the Simultala station on the East Indian Railway, were run over by two goods trains. The trains arrived from opposite directions, and as the drivers did not warn the men by the steam whistle, the trains came upon them before they had time to run away. Neither the Magistrate, nor the District Traffic Superintendent, nor even the Police Inspector came to the spot to hold an enquiry. Why was such neglect shewn in this case? Was it because it was only two *kala admis* who lost their lives? The poor men were killed while they were working on the railway line. Should not the railway authorities therefore make some provision for their families? It is to be hoped that Government will order an enquiry into the circumstances of the case and see that some compensation is paid to the families of the deceased persons.

(h)—General.

CHARU MIHIR,  
April 12th, 1904.

32. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 12th April says that the proposed division of Mymensingh into two districts will be of immense good to the local people. The head-quarters of the new district should be situate on high ground on a river at a distance of eight or ten miles from the Jamuna river and midway between Jamalpur and Tangail. There is such a place on the Jhinai river, south of the Keramjoni village and west of Chatutia, Kariaata, and Pathaha villages. This is a very suitable place, high and being healthy.

PALLIVASI,  
April 18th, 1904.

33. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 13th April agrees with the Government in thinking that high posts in the public service should be filled not by competitive examination but by nomination. It is not proper to subject candidates, who have already been the victims of many an examination, to the hardships of another examination. It should be a sufficient guarantee for the purity of the higher branch of the public service if none but graduates were made eligible for appointment to it.

KASIPUR NIVASI,  
April 18th, 1904.

34. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 13th April writes that the opium-eaters of Barisal town have been greatly inconvenienced by a rise in the price of opium from As. 9 to As. 10 per *tola*. This increase in the price of opium is likely to increase crime, as poor opium-eaters may be thereby forced to commit theft. Although it is not allowable to establish shops for the sale of opium, ganja, etc., near temples and churches, the new license-holder has disregarded this prohibition.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATEIKA,  
April 18th, 1904.

35. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 13th April has the following:—

The Bengal Provincial Budget.

The allotments in the Bengal Provincial Budget have not satisfied us at all, but have, on the contrary, grieved us much. Who can be satisfied with arrangements that totally ignore the comforts and conveniences of the poor people in the mufassal—of those people, that is, who fill the coffers of the State with their hard-earned money? The Bengal Government has sanctioned an immense sum for the improvement of that city of palaces and residence of millionaires, namely, Calcutta. In addition to the sum of nearly thirty lakhs of rupees already sanctioned for building purposes for the Presidency General Hospital, a further sum of three lakhs and a half has been granted for electric fans and other furniture. Can anybody tell us what advantage the natives of this country will derive from the palatial building and luxurious furniture which are thus being provided for Europeans at so large a cost? What is Government doing to save from cholera, malaria, and other diseases the villagers with whose money this comfort is being provided for Europeans?

Besides this, a sum of Rs. 50,000 has been sanctioned for a European hospital at Kurseong, another sum of Rs. 15,000 for a house for young Christian women, a further sum of Rs. 40,000 for a European orphanage at Kurseong and, over and above these, a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 for the erection of a residence for European nurses for patients of the same nationality.

Lakhs upon lakhs are being spent in this manner year after year. It goes without saying that this expenditure benefits none but the rich European community.

In the mafassal, hundreds of people are suffering dreadfully from want of drinking-water, thousands are dying prematurely of cholera, and the public health is sadly deteriorating, while the province is being desolated by the ravages of malaria. For want of money the District Boards are unable to undertake many necessary works. If Government had sought to improve the condition of the villages by placing a sufficient amount of money in the hands of the District Boards, the people of the mafassal would have been greatly benefited and we could have praised Government for its justice. But, instead of doing that, Government has withdrawn even the sum of 5 lakhs of rupees which it had been granting to the District Boards for some time past, and has been devoting the money to the promotion of the comforts and conveniences of the European community. The only explanation vouchsafed by Mr. Shirres for the withdrawal of this grant is that it has been stated by Government every year that it was doubtful whether the grant would be made permanent. But the promotion of the comforts and conveniences of the rich Europeans with the money of the poor Indians can hardly be called a just arrangement.

We are also surprised to see that while Government has sanctioned Rs. 40,000 for the European orphanage at Kurseong, it has sanctioned only Rs. 5,000 for the Hindu orphanage in Calcutta.

We learn from the last Administration Report that the District Boards did nothing to improve the health of the mafassal, and we notice a reduction of Rs. 52,560 in the medical expenditure of those bodies. The dispensaries are few in number and contain a very defective supply of medicine and of apparatus and instruments. Government realises lakhs of rupees from the people of the mafassal and yet does not think it its duty to provide proper medical treatment for them. But we notice that so many as 15 District Boards contributed money in aid of the Pasteur Institute at Kasauli. There is still considerable difference of opinion in European medical circles as to the efficacy of the Pasteur system of treatment, and even if there were no such difference of opinion, the peasantry of Bengal can never expect the benefit of treatment at the Pasteur Institute. Everybody must therefore be curious to know by what stratagem no less than 15 District Boards were made to contribute sums in aid of the institute. The only District Board that paid some attention to medical treatment was that of Backergunge. We see from the Administration Report that there are 35 dispensaries in that district. But we notice a reduction of Rs. 19,491 under the head "Sanitary improvement."

And how could reduction be helped in any way under the circumstances stated? The road-cess money constitutes the only fund of the District Boards, and everybody knows how that money is being wasted by Government. Of late, some attempt was being made to afford pecuniary help to the Boards, but the grants have now been stopped. That is why we say that the Bengal Government's Budget has grieved us.

36. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th April writes that although

Alleged illegalities by income-tax officers in Calcutta. it was well known that grave illegalities were committed in the assessment of the income-tax,

the authorities so long allowed themselves to be

hoodwinked in the matter. The Marwari community of Calcutta having applied to the Government for redress of their wrongs in the matter of income-tax assessment, Government thought it advisable to offer pardon to such people as had given bribe to income-tax officers and might now come forward as witnesses in the enquiry which was proposed to be held. As the result of the enquiry conducted by Mr. Savage, two native officers have been found guilty and punished by dismissal. It is not possible that in such a big office there should be only two officers guilty of dishonest conduct, or that by a little effort the malpractices of many more persons could not be brought to light. Mr. Savage may not have been guilty of unpardonable neglect in the performance of his duty, but that he was somehow prevented from inflicting due punishment upon the offenders appears very probable.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
April 16th, 1904.

Government has given no opportunity to the public to know the nature of the guilt of the two dismissed native officers. It is not known whether, in his report to Government, Mr. Savage mentioned the names of any other offenders. But the public are entitled to demand why the two men have been punished without a regular trial in a Court of justice. A regular trial would certainly have brought to light the guilt of many other officers. Is it for the purpose of screening some European officer that Government has thus secretly disposed of the matter? Some time ago a European officer in the Army Clothing Department, who was found guilty of theft, managed to get a transfer through recommendation and fled from India. Has another high official like him done a similar act in the Income-tax Department? There are many rumours afloat in this connection. It is manifest that two native officers have been sacrificed for the purpose of saving many greater offenders.

BHARAT MITRA,  
April 16th, 1904.

The proposed Deputy Collectorship in the Calcutta Income-tax Office.

37. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 16th April says that Mr. Savage's suggestion that a Kaithi-Nagri-knowing Deputy Collector should be appointed in the Income-tax Office to examine the *khatas* of Marwaris, will not meet the requirement of that office, because the *khatas* of Marwaris are written in Mahajani character, which is a quite different character from the Kaithi-Nagri. A Deputy Collector who can read and write Mahajani-Nagri should be appointed in the Income-tax Office to deal with the cases of Marwaris.

BANGAVASI,  
April 16th, 1904.

38. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th April writes :—

In his Budget speech Lord Curzon drew a vivid picture of the future of India when the measures introduced by him will begin to fructify. Time alone can prove how far His Excellency's predictions will come out true. It must be admitted, however, that his exertions on behalf of India, and the keen-sightedness and the energy which he displayed in all matters of administration from the highest down to the lowest, have been extraordinary. He is certainly one of the greatest men of action. The future of India no doubt depends upon what fortune has in store for her; yet most people looked for the best results under the administration of a Viceroy of his transcendental abilities. Lord Curzon firmly believes that the Universities Act and the Official Secrets Act will be for the good of the Indians, but, unfortunately, his arguments failed to convince anybody. He said that the British Government placed the greatest trust upon the Indians that ever was placed upon a subject people; and His Excellency quoted figures to prove that the blame which people cast upon the Government on the supposed ground that the Indians are not given higher appointments was undeserved. The figures prove, no doubt, that the number of Indian officers compared with that in 1867 has increased. But it is in the smaller appointments on salaries of Rs. 75 to Rs. 500 that the number of native officers exceeds the number of European officers. The number of European officers in the higher appointments receiving salaries of Rs. 1,000 and upwards is 15 times the number of native officers. Thus the natives are mostly minnows and the dolphins are almost all Europeans. If after a century of British rule in India and with the spread of higher education, only 92 Indians are found eligible for higher appointments, what is there in such a result to be proud of? If there are more native officers now than in 1867, it must be admitted that the system of administration has also been changed. Many minor appointments have now been created, and hence the number of native officers has increased, but has this number increased in the ratio in which the number of educated Indians has increased? As the result of the system of university education, the number of qualified Indians has so much increased that Lord Curzon would have been justified in claiming credit for Government if he had employed a much larger number of them in the higher posts. In the time of Akbar 11 per cent. of the higher appointments were filled up by Hindus. This number has now come down to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . Lord Curzon said that it was against the policy of the British Government to employ Indians in responsible offices. During 150 years of British rule in India, not even 100 Indians out of a total population of 30 crores have got higher appointments. This ought to satisfy us that we have absolutely no chance of obtaining higher posts. Only those minor posts for which Europeans will not

be available will be given to the natives, and we must consider ourselves fortunate if we get these. The remedy for this state of things is, no doubt, in our own hands; it would require the development of a sense of self-respect on our part. If we should ever learn to say, "Englishmen, if you would not give great posts to our great men, we smaller people will not accept the smaller appointments," if we should ever come to realize that it would be far better to be a porter than to serve, then only and not till then will a better day be likely to dawn. What is wanted is sacrifice of self and strength of mind.

39. Referring to the remarks which have been made by the Viceroy on the system of competitive examinations in the public service, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th April writes as follows:—

The system of competitive examinations may have its faults, but it is the least faulty of all the possible modes of recruiting men for the public service. Favouritism becomes rife under a system of nomination. If an official writes a book, those who purchase it in large numbers are favoured by him with posts in the public service. If an official borrows money his creditor or broker gets his men employed in high posts through his influence. If a person makes a present to an official's *nemsaheb* or purchases articles for her at prices lower than those which prevail in the market, his relations get appointed to the public service. Is all this good? In her famous Proclamation Her late Majesty said, "That our subjects of whatever race or creed be freely admitted to all offices, the duties of which they are qualified by their ability, education, and integrity duly to discharge." Lord Curzon has not told us what is the best method of selecting men for the public service. But if he had remembered the above solemn promise made by a crowned head and also his own promise to stand by that promise during his administration, his choice would assuredly have fallen on the system of competitive examinations. That system was considered the best by the Public Service Commission, which had examined the matter from all points of view and we request His Excellency to peruse its report. We have had bitter experience of the evil effects of jobbery and favouritism in the disposal of appointments in the public service. We are not to be duped by false charges against the system of competitive examinations.

40. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th April writes that it appears

The Lieutenant Governor on the question of house-rent in Calcutta. from the Lieutenant-Governor's Budget speech in the Local Council that His Honour was offended by what some of the Hon'ble Members had said about the proposal that Government should build

houses in Calcutta for its officials. It must be said that the speech was not worthy of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. His Honour said:—

"I think it is really almost too amusing to hear an Hon'ble Member stand up and tell us that by so doing we are entering into competition with the owners of houses in the matter of house rent. I know from my own personal experience as a man coming to Calcutta and entering a new house, I found a rapacious landlord who put upon me 50 per cent. more rent than had been paid the year before, simply because I had not the opportunity of choosing my own place of residence."

The Calcutta house-owners have done nothing to merit this rebuke from His Honour.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

41. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 9th April writes as follows

"The Bengali's struggle for existence":— under the heading "The Bengali's struggle for

BARISAL HITAISHI,  
April 9th, 1904.

What should we do now, we who have incurred the displeasure, not only of our English Sovereign, but also of the entire English nation? The authorities have passed the Official Secrets Act and the Universities Act, recorded a new resolution on their educational policy, circumscribed the sphere of competitive examinations in the public service, and framed a new Local Self-Government Bill. Every one of these is intended to tighten our fetters. It is because attempts have been made to prevent us from protesting against official oppression, to keep us out of the public service, to deprive us of high education and of the benefits of the Permanent Settlement,

DAILY HITAVADI,  
April 18th, 1904.

BANGAVASI.  
April 16th, 1904.

and to impose a 5 per cent. tax on the incomes of zamindars for the purpose of improving the city of Calcutta, that the English Press, joyous at the prospect of trampling down and humiliating the Bengali nation—the "over-educated" Babus, that is,—is proclaiming the glory of Lord Curzon. In this state of things we are at a loss to make out what should be done. We have no hope of regaining the favour of Englishmen by resorting to flattery and sycophancy. Who can arrest the course of time or avoid the immutable ways of Providence? The Bengalis must either be conquerors in this struggle or be effaced from the face of the earth. I, therefore, ask you, brethren, not to look to officials for favour, like the thirsty bird hopelessly looking at the clouds for a drop of water. Learn to rely on your own selves, to stand on your own legs. There is no more time for you to acquire an academic education. You must bid adieu to the University from which the authorities desire to expel you. If you do not, you will, after all the pains you have taken in receiving high education, be excluded from all public offices, into which none will be henceforth admitted but the favourites of officials and their relations. Do not, therefore, ruin your health by following this path. You must carve out your own path. Eschew all luxuries and return to the indigenous arts and industries of the country. Plenty and comfort will soon return to your homes. Beware! Firmly and courageously oppose every action of the Government which is tainted with the sin of oppression. Do not be desirous of living on the mercy of the English rulers, who will rack and oppress you in all sorts of ways for the maintenance of their countrymen and the preservation of their authority. Be prepared for all these and learn to stand on your own legs. Take your nourishment from the breast of your mother-country. You will then be able to stand erect, fearless of the frowns of other men. "Awake, arise, or be for ever fallen."

BASUMATI.  
April 16th, 1904.

42. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 16th April has the following :—  
*Alleged robbery by European soldiers at Barrackpore.* Tommy Atkins usually treats us to fisticuffs, ruptures our spleens, and shoots us down like wild beasts; but if, in addition to these, he tries to rob us of our money-bags, the situation becomes intolerable. Those who have come to foreign lands in order to risk their lives in the attempt to earn their livelihood must necessarily be extremely greedy. That scores of *sahib* thieves and dacoits have not yet begun to *lot* our property publicly is no doubt a singular good fortune to us. But it seems as if this good fortune will not last much longer. Last Sunday night, some European privates broke loose from the barracks, and, it is said, wrested a money-bag containing one hundred rupees from a man named Kanai, and beat him so severely that he was afterwards sent to the hospital for treatment. We have yet to see whether Kanai is prosecuted for having brought a false case against the innocent British soldiers.

BHARAT MITRA,  
April 16th, 1904.

43. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 16th April is glad that the Hindus and Musalmans of Calcutta are collecting subscriptions to do something to perpetuate the name of Justice Amir Ali who is retiring from the Calcutta High Court. But by doing this, they are showing ingratitude to Dr. Guru Dass Banerji, one of the ablest Judges of that Court. Of course they are doing this simply to flatter the Government, with whom Mr. Justice Amir Ali is a favourite. This act of ingratitude will raise Guru Dass Babu in the estimation of the public, who will honour him the more.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
April 16th, 1904.

44. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th April writes :—  
*The policy of Government.* Language was given to man, says a great European savant, in order to conceal his thoughts. Those who have made themselves acquainted with the crookedness of modern diplomacy, will understand the truth of this remark. We in India get occasional glimpses of this from what we hear about political measures. To enter into the country of uncivilized nations and to bring them under subjection by devastating war or by means of bribe, is called reclaiming them. To enter foreign territory for the purpose of waging war is called a political mission, and the taking possession of such territory goes by the name of repressing tyranny. These and many other similar expressions and their meanings we have been taught by English politicians. We have seen the pitiable condition of the native feudatory States and of Burmah; we have seen,

the presents to the Amir, and we now see the Tibet expedition. We understand everything, only we do not venture to open our lips, for to do so would be to commit a sin.

Our rulers possess the power to cause widespread ruin in an instant and they can convert a *til*-seed (*sesamum*) into a palm fruit, and in finding out the faults of others, they have a thousand eyes. But to their own faults they are blind; they have no ears to hear nor tongue to speak when the question is one of the misery of their subjects; they unhesitatingly clothe their real intentions in the garb of falsehood and regard this as a sign of manliness. The Sultan of Turkey is a tyrant and our rulers are just and impartial; this they are never tired of repeating.

Those who have witnessed the miserable condition of the coolies in the Assam tea-gardens will never regard the horrors of slave-trade as being in any way worse. What subject of the Turkish Sultan is treated more cruelly? Yet the English constantly find fault with the Turkish system of government. Misapplication of words such as this is an essential feature of modern politics. One must possess superior wisdom to understand what they signify. Diplomacy and falsehood are synonymous terms, some striking illustrations of which we have from Western politicians. In the Boer war we learned many such words and expressions, and expect to learn many more from the present Tibetan war and the Russo-Japanese war. We have understood what the expression "Political Mission" signifies. We now hear that it is not proposed to annex Tibet to British India. What the real import of this may be we do not know. Perhaps it will be given out afterwards that, with a view to protect the Tibetans from oppression, we are going to take them under our charge. The fact is, it is not easy to grasp the real sense of words.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

45. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 30th March says that Earthquake at Balasore. on the morning of the 29th March last a shock of earthquake was felt at Balasore at 7-15 A.M. and it lasted for about 30 seconds.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.  
March 30th, 1904.

46. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 2nd April states that the vibrations of the earth were noticed at Talcher on the same morning at 7-47. and that they lasted for about five minutes.

GARJATBASINI,  
April 2nd, 1904.

47. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 2nd April observed the phenomenon Earthquake at Cuttack. at Cuttack at 7-30. A.M., which was accompanied by a thundering roar. The direction of the vibrations was from north-east to south-west and they lasted for about five or seven seconds. It is said that at Angul the first shock was followed by a second at an interval of about half an hour. The Puri correspondent of the paper states that the shock was felt at Puri at about 8 A.M., and that it lasted there for about a minute.

UTKALDIPAKA.  
April 2nd, 1904.

48. The same paper states that there is no rain and that the temperature The weather. is rising. The nights are said to be cool.

UTKALDIPAKA.

49. The Jajpur correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* reports that the Incendiary. burning of houses is almost a daily occurrence and requests the authorities to put a check on incendiaryism.

UTKALDIPAKA.

50. The death of Maharaja Durga Charan Laha is mourned by all the Maharaja Durga Charan Laha's native papers of Orissa. He was a self-made man death mourned. and a useful member of the Indian community.

THE NATIVE PAPERS  
OF ORISSA.

51. The promotion of Mr. K. G. Gupta to the Board of Revenue is Mr. K. G. Gupta congratulated. hailed with delight by all the native papers of Orissa.

THE NATIVE PAPERS  
OF ORISSA.

52. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 30th March suggests A proposal to perpetuate Mr. Gupta's memory in Orissa. the erection of something substantial to perpetuate his memory in Orissa.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.  
March 30th, 1904.

53. The same paper regrets to note that the number of dacoities in the Dacoity in the Balasore district. Soro and Basta thanas of the Balasore district has increased. The writer gives specific instances of such dacoity and regrets that not a single offender has been brought to justice.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.  
March 30th, 1904.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.

GARJATBASINI,  
April 2nd, 1904.

GARJATBASINI.

UTKALDIPAKA,  
April 2nd, 1904.

UTKALDIPAKA.

THE NATIVE  
PAPERS OF ORISSA.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.  
April 6th, 1904.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.

UTKALDIPAKA.  
April 9th, 1904.

54. The same paper says that Babu Rasbihari Naik, a deserving Uriya Deputy Collector and Magistrate, is about to retire from Government service. He had been useful both to Government and the people during

the past thirty-nine years of his service. The nobility and gentry of Balasore met together in that town at an evening party to express their feeling of esteem and gratitude towards him in a becoming manner.

55. The same paper observes that by passing the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, Lord Curzon leaves a monument behind himself, for the future generations of Indians will note with satisfaction that His Excellency

interested himself in the antiquities of India and did what lay in his power to preserve them from the corroding influence of time and weather.

56. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 2nd April states that the last *Hengula Jatra* in the Talcher State was attended by 15,000 pilgrims, and that the ceremonies in connection therewith passed off without a hitch in consequence of the able arrangements made by the Raja of that State.

57. The same paper gives a short account of the speeches delivered by the Rajas of Dhenkanal, Pallahara, and Hindole in the schools of Talcher, whither they were invited by the Raja of the latter State through the influence of Mr. K. G. Gupta, the Commissioner. The Rajas fully appreciate the advantages that would accrue to them and their subjects if they freely mix with one another and visit one another's States as friends and advisers in disregard of the old custom that made it impossible for one Raja to visit the State of a brother Raja.

58. The *Utkalapika* [Cuttack] of the 2nd April is glad to learn that the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj visited the State of the Raja of Nilgiri, who is his own brother, with a view to give him instructions as regards the management of his State. The writer observes that this sort of sympathy and good feeling among the Rajas of Orissa is always desirable.

59. The same paper says that Banagurna, Kalyanpur, Hargobindpur, Daulia, and Kothpada, all important villages in the Cuttack district, suffer from severe water-scarcity in the hot season. The writer therefore recommends the excavation of a suitable tank in the Kothpada village at an early date.

60. Referring to the celebration of the last *Muharrum* festival in Cuttack, the same paper observes that both the Hindus and Muhammadans appear to be interested in this festival and that, of late, a steady decline in spirit, unity, energy, and faith has been perceptible in each particular community as regards its annual festivities.

61. The controversy over the union of the Uriya-speaking districts under Bengal is still going on in the Uriya papers. One correspondent writes in favour of the amalgamation of the Uriya-speaking districts with the Central Provinces in the columns of the *Utkalapika*; another attempts to give a fitting reply to the same.

62. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 6th April says that the temperature is rising day by day and that there is no sign of rain.

63. The same paper states that the want of drinking-water is felt in many parts of the Balasore district. It states that cholera is raging furiously in the Soro thana of the Balasore district and that the services of an additional Hospital Assistant are urgently required.

64. The same paper [Cuttack] of the 9th April states that the temperature is rising and that rain is wanted urgently.

UTKALDIPAKA.  
April 9th, 1904.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.  
April 6th, 1904.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.

UTKALDIPAKA.  
April 9th, 1904.

UTKALDIPAKA.

GARJATBASINI.  
April 9th, 1904.

GARJATBASINI.

66. The same paper says that incendiarism prevails in a certain part of the Cuttack town and a house has been known to be in flames several times.  
*Incendiarism in Cuttack town.*

67. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 6th April states that a new fortnightly magazine in Uriya, named *Ganjam Guna Darpan*, has come into existence in Bara Khemundi in the Madras Presidency.  
*A new Uriya magazine.*

68. The same paper states that the people of the Balasore town are in great fear, as the dacoits, who committed depredations in that town a few weeks ago, are at large.  
*Dacoity in Balasore town.*

69. Referring to the notification published in the *Calcutta Gazette* in which it is announced that out of nine appointments that will fall vacant in the Indian Survey Department, only two will be reserved for Indians, the *The vacancies in the Indian Survey Department.*

*Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 9th April observes that the proportion noticed above is not at all fair, and that considerations of colour or race must not influence the counsels of administrators, who should be guided by more equitable principles.

70. Referring to the appointment of Mr. Growse as Commissioner of Orissa, the same paper states that he was once a popular district officer in Cuttack, and hopes that *Mr. K. G. Gupta's successor in Orissa.*

he will be able to do what the people expect of him.

71. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 9th April draws the attention of the Dhenkanal authorities to the state of the tanks and temples in mauza Kualu in Pajang Biso in Dhenkanal, and states that, as they are out of repair, steps should be taken to save them from the attack of time and weather.  
*Old tanks and temples in the Dhenkanal State.*

72. The same paper corrects itself by stating that the duration of the late earthquake at Talcher was five seconds and not five minutes.  
*A correction.*

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,  
*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 23rd April, 1904.

